

Avatar 791

Chapter 791: Pressure

Evening fell.

With the name Team Happy, room 28529 in the Arena was undoubtedly the most popular room these days. Or perhaps you could say, since the launch of Glory,, there had never been an Arena room that had maintained such popularity over a long period of time.

Tonight was no different. Starting from six o'clock at night, players scrambled to the room. No one sat in the seat for competitors. Everyone ensured that they sat as a spectator.

Would anyone challenge Team Happy tonight?

The spectators guessed. Ever since talk of Team Happy exploded, numerous experts challenged them. During that period of time, there would be plenty of matches to see every night. Some of these experts came to embarrass Team Happy. Others came purely out of curiosity and just wanted to have some fun.

Team Happy had yet to lose. Not even once.

But Team Happy's line up was certainly strange. The vast majority of matches were won by the Battle Mage, Soft Mist. In the individual competition, she always appeared first. In the group arena, she also always appeared first.

In the eyes of the players, this Soft Mist was terrifyingly skilled. Rumors of Soft Mist being Ye Qiu spread. Many were suspecting that Ye Qiu was controlling this character from behind the screen. These were just guesses from normal players. The pro players paying attention to this commotion could tell that this Battle Mage was different from Ye Qiu's Battle Mage. Especially Excellent Era. After learning about Lord Grim not being Ye Qiu, they wanted to find some way to prove that Ye Qiu was definitely at Happy. However, from the material gained through the matches played recently, they also felt that Soft Mist wasn't Ye Qiu.

It was hard to say though. After all, the challengers were merely random in-game level players. For God Ye Qiu, he didn't need to go all out to crush them. He could fool around and win. From the perspective of people like Chen Yehui, who would think about Ye Qiu from the worst point of view possible, they were convinced that Ye Qiu was deliberately making things confusing.

If Soft Mist wasn't being played by Ye Qiu, then who else? This was one of the countless questions posed when talking about Team Happy.

At 7 o'clock sharp. Soft Mist appeared and sat a a competitor seat.

As for her opponent? Would there be an opponent today?

The spectators waited anxiously. Less and less opponents were coming. Last night, the first challenger appeared at eight o'clock and then lost without any suspense.

At this point, the players could tell that Team Happy was truly a strong team. It looked like normal players wouldn't be able to stop them. With their skill level, maybe they could actually make it into the pro scene?

This was also talked about. From the start, everyone thought Team Happy was being too arrogant, but now they started having different thoughts. Most of the spectators wanted to see Team Happy lose, but many were also thinking when they would lose. These two schools of thought sounded similar, but the slight difference between them indicated that quite a few people were starting to lean towards Team Happy's side.

Team Happy's marketing campaign had some results. Chen Guo's risky move paid off.

"It's time!"

At Club Excellent Era's game studio, after Tang Rou's Soft Mist appeared in the room, Chen Yehui immediately called out to everyone. He had been waiting among the spectators long ago. Today's matches would obviously need to be recorded.

'Who's going first?' Chen Yehui asked.

"I'll go!" Li Rui smiled, rushing to be first.

Chen Yehui nodded his head. He didn't care who came up first. He didn't forget to say a few words. "Be careful. This person has stood out the most in the team. I think that might be Ye Qiu playing." Chen Yehui warned solemnly.

"Ye Qiu?" Li Rui sneered. He wasn't looking down on Ye Qiu's skill, but rather Chen Yehui's eyes.

"She isn't him." Li Rui remarked bluntly. It didn't sound like he was opposing Ye Qiu, but completely denying Chen Yehui's suspicion was not giving him face.

Chen Yehui was furious in his heart. He started feeling conflicted. He was even slightly hoping that Li Rui would lose to show him his place. He's just a trainee from the training camp. If he one day became an ace player of a team, was he going to use his nose to talk to him?

Li Rui ignored Chen Yehui's feelings. He logged onto his character and entered the room in the Arena. Soft Mist standing out the most was something he obviously knew of. He had pursued this topic quite a bit. It was precisely because of this that he was eager to be first. If he could strike her down, he would certainly receive the most attention. Li Rui couldn't miss such an opportunity.

Demon Fighter.

This was the name of Li Rui's Battle Mage. He quickly entered the room and appeared in the competitor seat. Soft Mist was across from him.

"Demon Fighter. Is that one of yours?" Chen Yehui received a message from Chen Guo on his alternate.

"Yes." Chen Yehui replied.

Once Chen Guo confirmed it, she said to Tang Rou: "This is the one. Go for it!"

Soft Mist pressed ready. Demon Fighter pressed ready. The match began.

Tang Rou's aggressiveness didn't need to be said. Once the countdown ended, Soft Mist rushed towards her opponent. Just like before, Tang Rou often started with Dragon Breaks the Ranks. However, after so many days, the challengers were becoming more and more skilled, so Tang Rou wouldn't use this kind of unreliable initiation. In fact, against experts, it would certainly put her at a disadvantage.

Soft Mist steadily approached and initiated with Dragon Tooth. Demon Fighter had not moved yet as if he were very calm.

In reality, Li Rui was very nervous.

Yes, nervous. He hadn't thought that once the match began, he would become nervous.

The outcome of this match was very important. He regarded it as a turning point in his career, so he kept reminding himself that he absolutely could not fail. As a result, when the match came, he became nervous. He had given himself too much pressure. Only victory, no defeat. Very few could endure that kind of pressure.

Li Rui felt like he could hear his heart thump. His two legs underneath the table uncontrollably trembled and this trembling was spreading. If it spread to his two hands, it would be over.....

The more he thought about it the more he couldn't control himself. Li Rui discovered that his two hands had actually started shaking.

How shameful!

Li Rui thought. He looked left and right. Fortunately, the others were focused on their screens, watching the match. None of them saw his two hands shaking, easing some of the pressure off him. The trembling in his two hands seemed to have lessened as well.

But while he was distracted, Soft Mist had closed in on Demon Fighter and stabbed at him with Dragon Tooth. Demon Fighter did not react and was hit.

Dragon Tooth induced a brief stun effect. For Dragon Tooth, the stun was more valuable than the damage it dealt.

How to follow up after the stun was a basic skill for Battle Mages.

Tang Rou used it very well. When she started with Dragon Tooth, she didn't think it would be so easy to land the hit. She followed with Sky Strike, knocking Demon Fighter into the air. The magic chasers generated by Dragon Tooth and Sky Strike flew at their target and exploded. Soft Mist's next attacks arrived.....

Li Rui turned his head back at this moment and saw his character tumbling in the air. Two chasers struck him. Li Rui, who had just eased up a little bit, suddenly became nervous again. His brain seemed to have stopped working all of a sudden. His mind blanked. He forgot what to do in this situation. His left hand hovered over his keyboard and his right hand gripped his mouse. He wanted to move them, but they refused to listen to his instructions. He didn't know how he could get them to move again.

Soft Mist continued with her combo. Finally, she landed a Falling Flower Palm on Demon Fighter, pushing him away, and fired a Rising Dragon Soars the Sky. Her spear melded with magic, transforming into a

dragon. Before Demon Fighter could hit the ground, he was devoured by the dragon. The crowd let out gasps of surprise.

Hitting an airborne target with Rising Dragon Soars the Sky wasn't as easy as it sounded, even more so when chasing after a target that had been blown away by Falling Flower Palm. The inputs had to be very quick. If not, there wouldn't be enough time. Soft Mist being able to strike a blown away target with Rising Dragon Soars the Sky was proof of her hand speed. Without a fast enough hand speed, this play would not have worked.

As for Demon Fighter, did anyone care about him? He just stood there and took the Dragon Tooth. After being launched into the air by Sky Strike, everyone focused on Soft Mist's relentless combo. For normal players, this type of combo seemed perfect and inescapable.

But for Li Rui, that shouldn't be the case. Unfortunately, his mind blanked out. Everything he had learned instantly disappeared. He was like a spectator, watching as his character was pummeled in the air. After a direct hit from Rising Dragon Soars the Sky, Demon Fighter's health had gone down by a third.

A single combo for a third of his health. For a pro level fight, it was disgusting. There was no such thing as an inescapable combo. It all depended on whether you could find an opportunity to escape.

When Li Rui had turned his head, no one had been paying attention to him. But now after losing a third of his health in one go, everyone turned their heads.

It was too outrageous.

A trainee from the training camp might not be an official pro player yet, but they were at a pro level. To be comboed in such a way, what was he doing? Was he doing it on purpose?

From their understanding of Li Rui, they all thought of this possibility.

Chapter 792: Thinking Too Much

Faking carelessness and losing health before suddenly pulling himself together to defeat his opponent in one go. If one gave it more thought, this kind of thing fit with Li Rui's personality. This must have been deliberate.

That's what Li Rui's companions believed. They would never have thought that the prideful Li Rui they usually knew, the Li Rui that gave little care for his opponents, would be nervous to the point that his mind had turned blank. He didn't deliberately lose his health, he didn't even have time to think about it. After the countdown from three, two, and one for the match, he was carried away.

Li Rui's companions completely misunderstood him, so none of them were worried about him. Instead, they patiently waited for Li Rui to show his might. In the match, Soft Mist's wave of attacks came again.

This time, Li Rui wasn't lost in thought, he hastily made his response. However, his fingers were frozen, and refused to listen to his command. This situation looked terrible, if he didn't do anything, then he would suffer a chain of attacks from Tang Rou. If they were evenly matched, then both sides would

repeatedly be exchanging their skills to test each other. Until now, Li Rui could make responses, but they weren't good. As a result, he fought in a strained manner.

"Is he still pretending?" Li Rui's companions discussed as they messaged each other.

"He's pretty good at faking."

"Hehe, exactly, as if he really is struggling." "When he breaks out later, the opponent will definitely be mind-blown!"

"Too bad we can't see his opponent's expression!"

"Yeah, what a pity. But Li Rui is really despicable."

"Of course, too despicable! He's evil from heaven to hell!"

The two friends talked back and forth, while while watching Li Rui "fake" his flustered composure.

"It's about time for him to make his move!" Some replied. "Mhm, about time."

"Hehe." The two sent the drooling emoji to each other. But after numerous movements, Demon Fighter lost another chunk of health.

"He's still not making his move, he can really hold it in!"

"He must be planning to make a complete and grand comeback! He really has the guts!"

"Yeah, he's too confident, tsk tsk!"

The two sighed repeatedly, and continued to watch Demon Fighter's health go down. "His health bar has turned red, he will definitely be making his move. He even waited for his health bar to go red, how ruthless." Someone said.

"Indeed, I can't help but to feel worried for him." Another said.

Half a minute later.

"Say, perhaps we should really be worried for him."

"What's up with him? Something's not right!!"

After Demon Fighter's health bar turned red, they still failed to see Li Rui break out. All they saw, was him struggling and the health bar of Demon Fighter continue to fall. The two no longer continued to watch the match. They turned their head to see Li Rui. Li Rui's face was a bit pale. Even though the temperature at the end of August was still a little hot, the workshop's strong air conditioner continued to operate, so the workshop was chilly. But Li Rui's head was covered with thin beads of sweat. The wind was cool, so was his sweat. Finally, the word "Glory" shone on the screen. Li Rui stared dumbly with a paralysed face. Everyone gazed at one another, speechless.

It's alright to lose! But what happened just then? He lost in such an unsightly manner! Was there any difference between him and those experts online that were bullied?

The people from Excellent Era were in shock. But the audience had no idea that Demon Fighter was a hidden pro. For them, this match was no different from the previous days they had crowded around to see. Before Soft Mist, all the players were abused like this. It seemed like this Demon Fighter was pretty good! He managed to hang on for so long. Perhaps, his future might be promising with more practice?

A rough start!

Chen Yehui sighed. But it wasn't him who had lost, so his mood wasn't too bad. Instead of going up to give comfort, his eyes gazed at Li Rui disdainfully. That's what you get for pretending!

"Do I need to switch players?" Soft Mist asked from the Arena room.

According to the standard competition rules, three people would need to come forth for individual matches. One person for each match. Soft Mist would need to switch with another player after one match, but the people who challenged her might not be in a team, so they didn't need to follow the standard competition rules. Tang Rou would be facing the challengers by herself. Only fighting one match wouldn't be enough for her. So even though Chen Guo said that they would be fighting according to the competition rules, she still asked.

In the Excellent Era workshop, Li Rui suddenly jumped up and rushed before Qiu Fei with impatience. "Lend me your account."

"Mm?" Qiu Fei was puzzled, he was already logged into the game, so he could watch the match! When Li Rui suddenly ran over for his account, Qiu Fei didn't understand what he meant. On the contrary, Chen Yehui used to be in the training camp and currently managed the guild, so he was someone who had connections in both the online circle and professional circle. As a result, it was easy to guess what Li Rui was thinking.

This guy must have wanted to gain publicity through a match that drew a lot of attention. Who would have thought that he would lose in such an unsightly manner. But he refused to give up and still wanted to grab onto this opportunity. It wouldn't have been enough if he used the same account to win back something he lost. Luckily he was online, so no one would know who was behind Demon Fighter. This guy just wanted to switch characters and win, so he can speak about this victory as a pretense.

"Lend it to me to try again." Li Rui asked Qiu Fei without explanation.

It was unknown if Qiu Fei thought about it. He only glanced at Li Rui again. Qiu Fei didn't hand Li Rui his account, but he got up to give him his seat.

"Thank you." Li Rui said and sat down hurriedly, while he shouted at Chen Yehui that he would "Try another round". He didn't care about Chen Yehui's respond as he had already switched to Qiu Fei's character and rushed into the arena. "No need to change. Come!" A text bubble popped above his character's head.

"Didn't they say they would follow the competition rules?" Chen Guo found it hard to understand.

"It doesn't matter." Tang Rou said.

"You must be more than happy to fight. Of course it doesn't matter." Chen Guo said helplessly.

Tang Rou smiled and entered the match without minding at all. "Don't be careless with the previous guy, he was actually quite good. He just performed badly." Ye Xiu said.

"Oh? Is that so?" Chen Guo wasn't able to tell at all.

"Mm, he showed a glimmer of it, but he just played badly." Ye Xiu said.

"Why so?" Chen Guo asked.

"Within our circle, this type of circumstance is called performing poorly." Ye Xiu said.

"..." Chen Guo was speechless. "Performing poorly" could be used to explain all sorts of things. All reasons could be summed up with "performing poorly", but there was nothing wrong with saying that.

"Mm." Tang Rou answered as he listened to Ye Xiu's words. She never underestimated her opponent. The opponent before her was called Silent Night, and was another Battle Mage

After experiencing nervousness to the point of going blank in the first round, Li Rui finally adjusted his mindset. He breathed deeply, and after the countdown, he immediately made his move.

This was a match that couldn't be lost, but now that Li Rui finished adjusting his mind-set, his mind was no longer completely blank. He prepared to take her down with his full power, so he took the initiative to launch his attack when the match started. The two Battle Mages clashed together in the center. The two spears danced together. A hoarse, clashing noise sounded from time to time. Attacking and blocking were something that players loved to watch. Clashes between weapons would make the competition seem more intense.

This round, they were truly evenly matched.

The onlookers continued to watch, and their mood gradually rose. This was the scene that they have been waiting for! Even if, from what they have seen so far, the opponent was even at best, but the previous opponents of Soft Mist have only been oppressed, tossed, and turned. Now that there was finally an expert who could get out a fight. It was enough to raise everyone's spirits.

The faceslapping group that had been silent for a long time started to liven up. A large number of cheering messages started to flood into the chat. The two that were fighting could see it. Li Rui saw that the competition drew a lot of attention, and now that he fight normally, he managed to bring hope to many! Win, I must win. If I win, I would become the hero of these people. They would spread news of this victory without me needing to do anything. If my identity is revealed, everyone's attention will be focused onto me. Who knows, maybe fans might even block the club door to ask Excellent Era to make me an actual player!

But signing a contract with Excellent Era isn't perfect! We're only fighting in the Challenger League this season, and One Autumn Leaf is controlled by Sun Xiang. I have no chance at all! Speaking of age, I'm even older than Sun Xiang!

But if I don't go to Excellent Era, this match's victory wouldn't draw the attention of other teams. I would only become a hero for the fans of Excellent Era for slapping Happy's face. Fans from other teams are just there for fun. I might become well known, but it's hard to say if my presented skills would be favoured by other teams!

Or maybe, that team would sign a contract with a well known player like me to bring attention to the team themselves? Mm, it's not impossible, but the teams that would do this wouldn't be a top team. It might even be the two teams that joined in this year. That Heavenly Swords is very rich. A rich team's prospects would be pretty good, wouldn't it? Moreover, the conditions they could offer me must be very generous. This player seemed pretty good. When Li Rui thought such, he thought too much. He suddenly realised that, this time, he could almost picture it before his eyes. Yes, he pictured it, but the match that he expected to happen didn't appear.

Li Rui was alarmed, his mind had been distracted. Have I been playing subconsciously the whole time? When Li Rui regained his focus and saw the match. F*ck, I'm in the air.

But this time, Li Rui's mind wasn't blank, he quickly rescued himself from the airborne situation. However, he was stunned once again, when the word 'Glory' shone on the screen.

Silent Night, the character he lent from Qiu Fei, had fallen.

Chapter 793: A Player Switch

Li Rui lost again!

The studio fell silent. Everyone seemed to be staring at their own screens, but they couldn't help but sneak a glance at Li Rui.

Li Rui's expression was even uglier than before. His heart was filled with resentment, but he could not help but admit that his opponent was not as simple as he had anticipated. Anyone with a bit of skill could see that. Someone without any skill could still tell from the final health points on each character.

When Li Rui's Silent Night fell, Soft Mist had hit red blood. She had less than ten percent of her health left.

These two players were roughly evenly matched. Who won or lost each confrontation wouldn't be a surprising result. It just depended on who performed better at that time.

Li Rui had originally been playing well, but unfortunately, he was thinking about too many things. Mid-match, he saw everyone cheering his name and his train of thought flew too far. If he couldn't focus, how could he hope to beat an equally skilled opponent? Li Rui understood this point, so the regret in his heart couldn't easily be described with words. He stood up fiercely and stepped towards Chen Yehui. His face was red with embarrassment: "Give me another Battle Mage!"

Of course he would be embarrassed. He lost two matches and exchanged two accounts. Now he was asking for a third. He knew that his thoughts had been seen through, but in order to prove himself and seize this perfect opportunity, the ambitious Li Rui had to throw aside his dignity. He had seen the cheers and support from the fans earlier. If he could beat Soft Mist, he would certainly win a substantial amount of attention.

Chen Yehui's heart was filled with disdain towards Li Rui, but he couldn't show it on his face. He was just about to laugh out loud, when he saw the screen. He smiled: "Wait first. Qiu Fei is already up."

Li Rui was surprised. He checked his screen. Sure enough, Qiu Fei had taken Demon Fighter and stood at the competitor seat.

"Why is it this guy again?" The spectators didn't know that this account was being exchanged back and forth. Seeing the loser Demon Fighter jump out again, they were both puzzled and scornful. To the spectators, this Demon Fighter was overestimating his own abilities.

Why was Demon Fight being looked at with contempt? Wasn't it because Li Rui fought in such a disgusting manner? When Li Rui saw the public opinion towards Demon Fighter, his face burned white-hot. Aren't they talking about me? Right now, Qiu Fei had taken Demon Fighter and was being criticized for it. Li Rui turned his head to take a look at him. Qiu Fei, who had his character standing on the competitor seat, acted the same as during practice. Qiu Fei sat upright in his chair. His eyes were focused only on the screen. His left hand rested on the keyboard and his right hand gripped his mouse tightly as if it would never let go.

"Watch Qiu Fei first and then we'll see." Chen Yehui said plainly and ignored Li Rui. Even though he didn't like Qiu Fei, he couldn't bear Li Rui's cockiness. He was looking forward to seeing Qiu Fei give Li Rui a slap to the face.

Tang Rou didn't refuse the match. She didn't care if that Demon Fighter returned. Chen Guo was furious though. Didn't they say that the match would be played according to the official competition ruleset? It's fine if we don't need to switch out if we win, but when could you ever try again after losing?

Chen Guo despised how unreasonable the opponents were being, but it wasn't reason enough to argue. The purpose of this exhibition wasn't to follow the official competition rules.

The two Battle Mages were sent to the field. After the countdown, another match began.

Tang Rou's victory over Li Rui had not been easy. The exhaustion felt from battling against an evenly-matched opponent could not compare to the exhaustion felt from bullying normal players. Even so, when the match began, Tang Rou was the first to act.

Her opening move was the same as the previous match. As soon as she found the perfect distance, she sent over a Dragon Tooth.

This time, Demon Fighter did not wait foolishly to be hit. When the Dragon Tooth came, he stepped slightly to the side, just barely dodging it. At the same time, his spear stabbed back with Dragon Tooth.

Soft Mist turned her body to avoid the attack. She switched up her offense and her spear swept in a horizontal arc: Tyrant's Destruction!

Demon Fighter did not change skills. He seemed to insist on using Dragon Tooth, but his body had started moving according to the direction of Tyrant's Destruction.

A character's movement speed couldn't compare to the speed of a weapon. Even if Demon Fighter rotated, he would still be hit by Tyrant's Destruction. However, just this slight movement was able to win him just enough time for Dragon Tooth to hit.

This tiny time difference was too subtle. Spectators who weren't matching the fight closely might not even have noticed Demon Fighter's slight rotation. Only true experts would know that without this rotation, Demon Fighter would not have gotten this result.

Dragon Tooth, hit!

The brief stun interrupted Soft Mist's Tyrant's Destruction. Although Dragon Tooth was a low-level skill, it was very useful. How could Qiu Fei not be proficient at utilizing the brief stun induced by Dragon Tooth? He flicked his mouse and followed up with Tyrant's Destruction, Sky Strike, Falling Flower Palm, and various Chasers. He weaved low-level skills with high-level skills, following a standard flowchart for his combo. In an instant, Soft Mist was completely suppressed.

This time, the spectators were dumbstruck. How did Soft Mist suddenly end up in this state? In the first match, Soft Mist's fight with Silent Night hadn't even been this dominant.

No, not just Silent Night. Everyone had come to this room to watch the PvP exhibition every day and had never seen Soft Mist be at such a disadvantage. Demon Fighter had created history. But the problem was that everyone's memory of his sluggishness was still fresh in their minds. How did he suddenly become so incredible?

The spectator chat suddenly stopped moving. The players didn't know what to say.

Tang Rou wasn't like Li Rui, whose brain crashed and died in one combo. In the midst of the combo pressure, she quickly found an opportunity to escape and pulled the match back to the starting point. But from their health bars, she was already on the losing side. For the spectators, this was unprecedented. After a long pause, someone finally typed: "A player switch?"

Such a dramatic difference made the crowd think of this possibility, which happened to be the truth. But the truth behind the truth was that Li Rui's Demon Fighter shouldn't have lost in such an ugly fashion. If he had found an opportunity, he would have also been able to snatch the first glory and combo Soft Mist. Unfortunately, he played so sluggishly that even he wanted to switch accounts to pretend he was a new player.

Qiu Fei didn't care at all. He took the considered stupid character and gave everyone a shock. The halo of stupidity left by Li Rui didn't affect him at all. He was the expert in the crowd's eyes. They would not mistake him for that idiot from before.

Li Rui naturally felt embarrassed. As he sat foolishly at his seat, his face changed from red to white. The opportunity that he had been waiting for was going to be taken by Qiu Fei? After the spectators recovered from their shock, they had begun cheering for Qiu Fei. This time, Qiu Fei's Demon Fighter held the advantage. The crowd's excitement and cheers for Qiu Fei were naturally more intense than when Li Rui used Silent Night.

Li Rui tightened his fist. His fingers dug into his hand, but he didn't feel pain, only jealousy and resentment. Why did he fail to grab at that opportunity? Why did Qiu Fei take it instead?

If Qiu Fei took this match, it would break Team Happy's perfect win streak. Li Rui knew very well what type of attention such an outcome would bring. If not, he wouldn't have cared to go first. Unfortunately, his dreamed moment was gradually floating farther away!

Lose! Why aren't you losing! If you lose, this chance will still be mine!

Li Rui became a supporter of Happy. He wanted to see Happy win this fight more than anyone else. He prayed for Soft Mist to suddenly gain momentum and for Qiu Fei to make a mistake.

Reality failed to meet his prayers.

Qiu Fei fought steadily. He didn't relax because of his advantage nor did he underestimate his opponent for being from an Internet cafe team. He didn't think about the future like Li Rui had. In his eyes, this was a match. The purpose of a match was to beat his opponent and win, nothing more.

Furious Dragon Strikes the Heart!

Furious Dragon Strikes the Heart!

The two Battle Mages actually chose to use the same move. The two spears whistled through the air and clashed. It looked as if they came out at the same time.

That was just for normal players though. For skilled players, they could see that Soft Mist had started up the skill earlier! That was a contest of hand speed.

In that instant, Li Rui felt overjoyed. This Soft Mist was really tenacious. If this strike hit, the tides might shift. By riding on this momentum, she could gain a lead.

"Beautiful!" Li Rui couldn't control himself because he was waiting for this moment to happen. It was only after he shouted it out did he realize that his words were inappropriate. Even if he didn't Qiu Fei, it wasn't a suitable time. It was a problem with his integrity!

But who would have thought that at this moment, the one to be hit by Furious Dragon Strikes the Heart was actually Soft Mist. Both players saw the same opportunity, but the one to seize it was Qiu Fei.

Li Rui, who let out a slip of the tongue, was stunned, but the others were all looking at him with admiration. He couldn't help but blush with shame. He knew everyone had misunderstood. They probably also thought that Soft Mist would win the exchange. However, Qiu Fei actually struck first. His "Beautiful!" made it seem like his eyes were exceptionally perceptive.

"It looks like today's opponent has some background." At Happy, Wei Chen was watching the battle too and gave a sigh towards Ye Xiu. But he didn't think he wouldn't get a response. When he turned his head, he unexpectedly saw Ye Xiu staring dumbly at his screen!

Chapter 794: Another Player Switch

"What are you looking at?" Wei Chen moved closer to look at Ye Xiu's screen. He was starting to suspect that he wasn't watching the match. Why else did he look so distracted? The skill level of those two were shocking when thrown into the normal player crowd, but as seniors of the pro scene, it wasn't that stunning!

But when he went over, Ye Xiu really was looking at the match.

Maybe it was because he was astonished at how Tang Rou's situation wasn't looking good? Wei Chen had also noticed it. Wasn't that what he wanted to talk about? Of the three opponents fought today, both Ye Xiu and Wei Chen could tell that the first opponent wasn't bad. He just performed poorly. The second opponent was evenly matched with Tang Rou, but Tang Rou performed better and also won that round. As for this round.....

Wei Chen turned his head back to look at his screen and commented: "Do you think this Demon Fighter is a different person?"

The players felt so because the difference between this round and the previous round was too great. It was actually more difficult for Ye Xiu and Wei Chen to be certain because they could see that the Demon Fighter from the previous round was actually quite skilled.

"He's different." Ye Xiu was quite certain, "The person from the first and second round are the same person. The current one is a different person."

"What's your reasoning behind that?" Wei Chen was puzzled. No matter how experienced he was, without actually being there, how could he guess that Li Rui had been distracted by his thoughts?

"I don't know." Ye Xiu shook his head, but he was still watching the current round: "But I recognize this one here!"

"You recognize him? Who?" Wei Chen was astonished.

Chen Guo was pleasantly surprised. To Chen Guo, being able to fight evenly with Tang Rou was already incredible enough. If they encountered anyone skilled, they could try recruit him or her. This was one reason why Chen Guo arranged this exhibition match. Now that they had run into someone skilled, who Ye Xiu even recognized, it was too perfect!

"Who? From where? How old? How do you know him?" Chen Guo asked a string of questions.

Ye Xiu shook his head. He didn't immediately reply and continued to watch the match seriously. Chen Guo was surprised. From Ye Xiu's behavior, this opponent might not be someone who could easily be recruited?

On stage, the fight between the two players was approaching the end.

The same opportunity, the same skill, but in the end, it was Qiu Fei who hit Soft Mist with Furious Dragon Strikes the Heart. At that instant, Tang Rou's hand speed had surpassed Qiu Fei's, and Soft Mist started the attack earlier. While that was an advantage, it didn't decide everything. Qiu Fei may have been slightly slower, but his angle was more precise and efficient. Qiu Fei's greater familiarity with the skill revealed itself. He may have started slower, but his attack's path was more efficient, allowing him to strike first.

This attack determined the outcome of the fight. Qiu Fei did not make a mistake. Even though Tang Rou tried hard, she was unable to escape. Soft Mist finally fell.

Glory!

These two eye-catching words flashed onto the screen. The spectators stared blankly. It was only until a few seconds later did they erupt. A flood of messages instantly jumped out into chat. In this instant, everyone in Happy could deeply feel that they truly were the villains.

Only a few praised Qiu Fei's performance. The vast majority of the crowd were cheering at Happy's downfall. The face slappers had been waiting too long for this moment. They had almost given up, thinking that Team Happy might really require pro players to take down. Quite a few were burning incense and praying for Happy to run into Excellent Era in the first round.

Who would have thought that they wouldn't need to wait until that day came? Someone had stood out and taken down Team Happy today.

The crowd completely forgot about the nature of competition. Losing and winning was very normal. No matter how strong a team or a player was, no one had a 100% win rate. After beating Soft Mist, the spectators felt like Happy could no longer recover as if this loss would result in their complete collapse.

The content of the ridicule was brilliant. Compared to the common insults, the trash talk experts among the crowd were absolutely at a professional level. Tang Rou, who lost the previous round, raised her head to look at everyone. Her eyes were filled with regret. However, she was no longer a noob, who would refuse to accept the results and immediately try again like she did when she lost to Ye Xiu. Glory was entirely skill-based. There was a reason for every win and loss. And Tang Rou could evaluate her opponent's strength, especially since her opponent used a Battle Mage too. She could identify her opponent's methods. Who was better or worse couldn't be determined with just a few matches. At the All Star Weekend, Tang Rou had taken Team Samsara's Du Ming by surprise and won a few matches, but did that mean her skill level was higher than Du Ming's?

Tang Rou understood this reasoning very well. So when she lost, she didn't make excuses. Although she was unwilling to admit it, she had to concede: "Today's opponet is very good."

"Yes." Ye Xiu nodded his head and got up, "Let me try."

"You?" Everyone was astonished. Up until now, there was no record of Ye Xiu ever appearing! It made those who opposed Excellent Era use this fact as an argument: you've been challenging them for so long and you guys can't even force out the boss! And you still want to slap their faces?

And now, Ye Xiu took the initiative to come out.

"Do you want to use my account?" Tang Rou saw Ye Xiu heading over to her and guessed his intent.

"Yeah, they didn't switch out, right?" Ye Xiu asked.

"I don't think so." Tang Rou looked at the stage. That Battle Mage was still standing there, not saying anything as if waiting for them to switch players.

"Directly start." Ye Xiu said. Tang Rou pressed ready and got up to give her seat to Ye Xiu. Ye Xiu sat down and quickly typed: "Again."

The other side didn't reply, but pressed ready. When the spectators saw that the two were going to fight again, they immediately started jeering at Soft Mist. They weren't leaving themselves an escape route. If Soft Mist won, what would they do?

Li Rui was the most depressed among everyone.

The opportunity he had been waiting for had been snatched away by Qiu Fei. Was that his fate? Qiu Fei had been favored by Ye Qiu as One Autumn Leaf's successor. But when the team made a chance and Ye Qiu left. His position became awkward. But why did fortune favor him this time? Why did he snatch away this opportunity too?

Li Rui completely forgot that this opportunity had originally been given to him twice, but he failed to seize it. He only felt jealousy for Qiu Fei's victory right now.

But no matter how much resentment he harbored. It would not change reality. The most eye-catching opportunity had been seized by Qiu Fei. His only option was to perform outstandingly in the following confrontations and attract attention that way. Should he switch accounts again though? He had done okay on Silent Night. If he didn't switch accounts, it would be hard to get the same "it's a different person" result. It would be more reliable if he switched accounts.

Li Rui was still racking his brain, when Soft Mist already pressed ready, saying "Again."

Chen Yehui immediately said: "Ignore them. Wait for them to switch!"

Chen Yehui understood very well! Qiu Fei was more skilled, but only to a limited extent. He couldn't crush Soft Mist like he could against normal players. So if he played another round, it was possible that Qiu Fei might lose.

They were here to embarrass Team Happy. If only a single player fought all the matches, but only won a single match, it wouldn't make a big impact. But they had only lost two matches so far and they had cleanly taken down Soft Mist. Looking at the crowd's reactions, the crowd looked highly upon this victory. It wasn't a lucky victory that had only come out after a hundred crushing losses.

Speaking of which, Chen Yehui had to thank Li Rui's coverup. Luckily, Silent Night lost so badly the first round. If not, the crowd wouldn't have thought that the players had been switched. If the first round had been an even battle, if Qiu Fei won this round, the effects wouldn't have been so spectacular. Two evenly-matched opponents going back and forth wouldn't be considered a slap in the face, no?

The face slap had been hugely successful, but if Qiu Fei challenged Soft Mist again and lost, the face slap effect wouldn't be as complete. As a result, when Chen Yehui saw the opponent press ready, he thought that the other side had thought of this. How could he fall for that trap? He immediately told Qiu Fei to ignore it. However, Qiu Fei had already pressed ready. The owner of the room was Team Happy, so how could the fight not start immediately?

"Sigh!" Chen Yehui slapped his leg. It was such a perfect opportunity. Why was Qiu Fei so stupid?

Chen Yehui was annoyed, but he needed to rely on Qiu Fei not losing. He put aside his envy towards Qiu Fei and cheered him on: "Little Qiu, good luck!"

"Mm." Qiu Fei replied. The match began. On the other side of the field, the image of Soft Mist gradually became clear.

Is she going to attack first again? Qiu Fei didn't have as many thoughts as Li Rui. He was purely focused on guessing what Soft Mist would do. In the previous three rounds, Soft Mist had taken the initiative. Qiu Fei had to be wary as soon as the fight started.

Who would have thought that this time, Soft Mist did not move and instead said: "Is that you, Qiu Fei?"

This is..... Qiu Fei heard the other side's voice and stared blankly into space.

Ye Qiu? Is he really at Happy? Is he really planning on forming his own team and fighting against Excellent Era in the Challenger League?

Chapter 795: Enduring Faith

"It's you?" Qiu Fei's tone was incredulous.

All those rumors regarding Ye Qiu and Lord Grim had been flying around nonstop for the past half year or so, and it was no different in the training camp. And since they were closer to those involved, there would often be someone who would act all mysterious, willing to divulge what truths they knew, saying that the information came directly from the team or someone who was in the know.

As more rumors came to light, all the different tales grew in detail. For their training camp, there was a saying that Ye Qiu couldn't stand how terrible Excellent Era was becoming, but the club wouldn't let him go, so he just decided to retire and build another team from scratch.

This version was detailed and refined. For example, problems like why Ye Qiu become so active so soon after his retirement were explained in this version. After retirement, pro-players weren't bothered by their teams or constrained by any contracts, so they were free to do as they wished. That's one of the reasons why the Alliance declared that a retired player could only come back a year after their retirement, so that pro players wouldn't exploit this.

This version obviously favored the team and tarnished Ye Qiu's image. Whether these versions that came from within Excellent Era were formed from the rumors that spread from person to person, or perfected by people who intentionally let slip scraps of information, no one would know.

This version was logically sound though. Ye Qiu's retirement was very sudden and the club didn't give him a goodbye party either, not even a goodbye match. Considering Ye Qiu's position in Excellent Era, there was obviously something strange going on. And Excellent Era had long since addressed these issues. They said that after he retired, Ye Qiu immediately left the club and went out of contact.

That was the truth, and no one could find any faults in the tale.

There were many sayings and guesses as to the truth of the matter, but no one had a solid conclusion. As for Excellent Era, they never expressed contempt or anything like that towards Ye Qiu either.

About Ye Qiu's retirement, the training camp also had a joke about how Captain Ye was playing a very difficult game of chess.

With the recent Team Happy debacle, Ye Qiu created a team to go against Excellent Era and revealed the team fully to the public. Most Excellent Era fans were thunderstruck. This was, after all, the greatest

god in the history of their team, and now he was coming out to fight with them to the death in the Challenger League. This was something most fans could not accept.

Ye Qiu's situation was a bit different from Zhang Jiale.

Zhang Jiale's actions were, in simple terms, to switch teams for his own future. Fans might feel cold towards him, but, apart from a few sentences of mockery, they weren't exactly seething with rage.

It was different for Ye Qiu. Creating a team to participate in the Challenger League was a case of life and death. If Ye Qiu succeeded, then he would've done so by stepping on Excellent Era's corpse. The fans wouldn't just be scornful, they would be hurt and furious. Never mind those who supported the team, it wouldn't be surprising if even those who were fans of Ye Qiu turned against him.

With so much hatred being hurled at Ye Qiu, little attention was paid to the news of Zhang Jiale's return, and not without reason; it wasn't just because Ye Qiu had a larger influence than Zhang Jiale.

There were still people who still supported Ye Qiu of course, but they were few and were completely drowned out by the cries of condemnation. It wasn't just Excellent Era fans and those who turned on Ye Qiu among these cries, but also people who didn't like him from the start and even those who were ambivalent towards him. His own fans had turned against him, so was it surprising that those who were neutral would too?

The number of people whose faith in Ye Qiu endured decreased with each passing incident.

But Qiu Fei was one of these people. He was someone who had been taught personally by Ye Qiu, and he knew more than anyone about the loyalty Ye Qiu had for Glory, and the feelings he held for Excellent Era.

Ye Qiu would do something like this? He didn't believe a word. He had heard all of the rumors flying about, but he didn't go and argue against them; he just dismissed them with a smile. No matter what anyone did or didn't say, those who were innocent were still innocent, and those who weren't remained so or so Qiu Fei believed.

Until the club declared that Lord Grim from Team Happy was Ye Qiu.

Who would suspect the official announcements from the club? Discussions erupted in the training camp, and Qiu Fei continuously received meaningful looks from the people around him.

Though Qiu Fei had never spoken up against those rumors, his disbelief was very much apparent. Everyone knew, this guy always looked up to and had faith in Ye Qiu, but now with the official announcement from the club, do you still dare to not believe?

Qiu Fei seemed completely unaffected.

No one knew the pain and conflict that this announcement brought out in him.

The truth diverged too far from what he knew. Would the ex-captain he thought to be loyal to Glory and the team truly do something like this? Did he really retire to get rid of the team he thought was holding him back? The one who always guided him, who fought for victory, who never gave up, would he really abandon his team at a time like that? What is he trying to accomplish doing something like this to Excellent Era? First he abandons the team, then uses them as a stepping stone to success?

The faith Qiu Fei had towards Glory was crumbling. Everything he thought he knew was crafted by this person. Yet now that this person went back on his word. How could Qiu Fei continue to have faith in him? To suspect this person was to suspect the beliefs he had always held.

On that day, Qiu Fei's practice was filled with flaws, yet no one noticed. Qiu Fei was always a responsible child, unlike those who liked to slack off or would get distracted, he didn't need someone watching over him.

Everything he had given to Glory, what was it all for?

Qiu Fei's ideals had begun to shift. Everything he knew was in suspect. He was lost.

And yet at this time, the media made a statement. Lord Grim wasn't Ye Qiu.

For Excellent Era, this was humiliating news. For many fans, it was embarrassing. But for Qiu Fei it was great news. So, the club got it all wrong.

Lord Grim wasn't Ye Qiu, everything was just a rumor.

Qiu Fei was elated because what he had believed in and supported was true once more. However, the club then made another announcement. Though Ye Qiu didn't apply with Lord Grim, he was definitely at Happy.

But for Qiu Fei, he was like the radical fans that had been pulled around by these mixed messages. They wouldn't listen any more.

Last time, they believed the club. The radical fans besieged Happy. Qiu Fei's beliefs crumbled, beginning to suspect everything he had worked hard for. After the media came out with their news, the radical fans besieged Excellent Era. Qiu Fei found it in himself to continue believing. Then the club announced something different, so the fans retreated from the doors of Excellent Era, but wouldn't go after Happy again. As for Qiu Fei, his wouldn't crumble, but he felt gloom overcome him nonetheless.

He really hoped the truth was not as they said.

Yet, here and now, in front of him was an account from Team Happy and Ye Qiu was behind it, greeting him.

Qiu Fei didn't dare believe it, or rather, didn't want to believe it.

So Ye Qiu really was at Happy. He just didn't use Lord Grim to apply. But the Challenger League wasn't as strict with regulations as the Pro League, especially in the switching of team members. There was a lot of freedom there. Apart from not being able to change accounts freely, it was fine if someone applied to join or leave in the middle. Though there were some limitations, adding another member to the team was easy.

Having already experienced one breakdown, Qiu Fei didn't shatter like he did before. Especially with who was in front of him, Qiu Fei seethed with anger. The feeling of being lied to burned.

The other seemed to have said something else, but Qiu Fei didn't hear. He took the initiative, and charged.

The audience cheered.

Of course, they didn't know that these two had a short talk and didn't know that this match had a more depth to it. They just wanted to see Happy humiliated and cheered wildly for Demon Fighter, making Li Rui go green with envy.

"What's the rush for?" Ye Xiu was a little taken aback by Qiu Fei's advance. That kid didn't even answer his question yet. He could only respond. He swiped his mouse. There was the sound of metal on metal, two spears clashing. But the battle would not pause with this impact. Demon Fight turned, taking half a step, and pressed a Falling Flower Palm at Soft Mist.

Soft Mist also immediately took a step, her spear rising upwards with a Sky Strike.

Though it seemed as if this trade of techniques would result in injuries for both sides, an expert could see that this Sky Strike was faster than the Falling Flower Palm. Falling Flower Palm didn't give the user any Super Armor advantages, so this slight difference in speed was enough to negate the attack.

Qiu Fei didn't recklessly press on and quickly switched skills. Falling Flower Palm was cancelled, and he attacked even as he dodged Sky Strike.

Chapter: 796 - Battle Mage Duel

Dragon Tooth!

Ye Xiu had Soft Mist use Dragon Tooth to meet his opponent's attack.

Qiu Fei did another micro movement. His Demon Fighter shifted slightly and Dragon Tooth brushed past his body. Demon Fighter's spear looked as if it was about to strike Soft Mist, when Soft Mist twisted her body and her spear swept across horizontally along with her movement.

Ding! The two spears collided with each other. Ye Xiu did not want to waste his Dragon Tooth in order to dodge. Instead, he twisted to shift directions, turning his Dragon Tooth into a block. (TL Note: Guard->Block)

Blocks had numerous uses. It was a basic technique that all pro players needed to firmly grasp. It was most used in fights between the same class. In fights between the same class, both sides had the same skill options and similar stats, so their attack priorities were naturally about the same. As a result, blocks were very dependable.

However, Battle Mages were an exception. Experienced pro players would try not to block opponent attacks.

Because blocks relied on an attack's priority to reduce the opponent attack. According to the system, if an attack was blocked, it would still count as a hit. The attack simply hit the opponent's weapon, so it would not deal much damage.

Even so, it satisfied the requirements for a chaser to spawn.

Magic chasers were a Battle Mage's main method of attack and provided a buff. A Battle Mage without a chaser was no different from an elderly tiger with no teeth.

In addition, the Battle Mage awakening skill, Battle Spirit, relied on combos to stack. An attack being blocked would still count as a hit, so the combo count would also increase by one.

Blocking several attacks in a row looked super cool, but if the opponent was a Battle Mage, it was the same as waiting for the opponent to activate Battle Spirit and engulf you in chasers!

Facing Battle Mages, controlling the creation of chasers was very important, so blocking should generally not be used when possible.

But on the flip side, as a Battle Mage, creating chasers was very important and blocking an attack was a good way to obtain chasers. Blocking an attack and an attack being blocked were both considered as hits for both sides.

Because of this class characteristic, every Battle Mage would emphasize blocking practice. Every Battle Mage player was an expert at blocking.

The two Battle Mages battling needed chasers. At the same time, neither side wanted the other side to generate chasers, making the battle much more complicated.

Ye Xiu used Dragon Tooth as a block. Qiu Fei had also used a skill that could generate a chaser. After the block, both Battle Mages had a magic chaser floating around their bodies.

Soft Mist had a white neutral chaser from the Dragon Tooth. Demon Mist had a pale blue ice chaser from Double Stab.

Before the two chasers could completely form, the two fighters jumped backwards away from each other. Closely following afterwards, their chasers flew out from their bodies.

Boom!

As if the two chasers had agreed on the path beforehand, the chasers crashed into each other. With a light ding and without any flashy visual effects, there was a slight magic fluctuation before the two chasers disappeared. This type of collision also counted as hit. As a result, the two Battle Mages each gained a buff according to their chaser's effects.

A light blue aura emanated from Demon Fighter, freezing the surrounding air like an armor made of ice. Ice chasers gave a defense buff to the user.

As for Soft Mist, the white aura only emanated from her two feet. It looked as if she were standing on a cloud. Neutral chasers gave a movement speed buff to the user.

The difference between the two chasers suddenly became the breaking point of the match. When Soft Mist rushed forward, her speed had clearly increased significantly. Demon Fighter's defense buff put him on the defensive. He did not gain any advantage until an attack hit.

Buffs given by chasers lasted 20 seconds. How could Ye Xiu waste this opportunity? Utilizing his superior movement speed, he moved nimbly into a position to use Sky Strike.

Demon Fighter was at a disadvantage in terms of movement speed compared to Soft Mist, so he had no way of dodging it. Qiu Fei immediately thrust his spear in order to block the attack. However, Soft Mist's spear suddenly twisted and completed an N. Demon Fighter failed to block the attack and he was launched into the air.

"Your decision-making still isn't good enough. You see me use Dragon Tooth, yet you give me a chaser for free. You could have cancelled your Double Stab there. Why are you in such a rush?" Ye Xiu said.

The previous exchange of skills hadn't been necessary. Even though Soft Mist had blocked the attack, Qiu Fei had used Double Stab, which attacked in two stages. In between the two stabs, the spear had to be retracted. How else could there be a second stab? At that moment, Qiu Fei could have cancelled his skill. If he timed it well enough, he could have retracted it in the middle of the first attack, so Dragon Tooth wouldn't block it. Then, he could have followed with the second stage and completed the attack.

Qiu Fei, whose character had been launched into the air, immediately realized it too. So I can do that there..... I really was too hasty.

Qiu Fei grinded his teeth. He turned his character in midair, but he couldn't see any sign of Soft Mist.

Vanishing Step!

This was a high-leveled technique used to combo in the air. Against normal players, using such a high-leveled technique was superfluous. Very few normal players could steady their characters while in the air. As for pro players, in order to counter this, they invented Vanishing Step.

Qiu Fei still wasn't too good with this technique. It was because this technique required vast amounts of experience. Without a few years of accumulated experience, it would be very difficult to pull off.

Even if he couldn't pull it off himself, that didn't mean he was helpless against it. There was no such thing in Glory as an invincible technique. Qiu Fei spun around twice, but still couldn't locate Soft Mist. During this time, he ate two attacks. After these two attacks, Qiu Fei decisively made a move. Demon Fighter stopped turning around in an attempt to see Soft Mist and used Tyrant's Destruction as if he knew her location.

Sure enough, Soft Mist was inside Tyrant's Destruction's range. Whether this attack was blocked or dodged, Soft Mist would be forced to move away from Demon Fighter. Vanishing Step required the user to be within a certain range. This attack completely dismantled Vanishing Step.

"Not bad. You can find my location after just the second attack." Ye Xiu said again.

After escaping, Qiu Fei was on guard. Sure enough, Soft Mist rushed towards him. Qiu Fei immediately rolled without thinking and let out a Falling Flower Palm. Soft Mist leaped backwards and used Double Stab at the same time. Qiu Fei did not dodge it. He had Demon Fighter use Sky Strike to trade attacks and launch Soft Mist into the air.

Their attacks traded. Soft Mist was knocked into the air. Demon Fighter may have been hit by Double Stab, but Double Stab did not have a brief stun effect like Dragon Tooth. He took the damage and chased after Soft Mist to attack. Suddenly, a blue light flashed in front of him. An ice chaser had smashed into him.

Hit!

Elemental chasers not only dealt more damage than neutral chasers, but they also brought a debuff to the enemy. Ice chasers would slow the target. The probability of the slow and the effects depended on the skill level. Qiu Fei could not tell how many skill points had been put into Soft Mist's Ice Chaser, but when he checked his character's debuff status, he saw that the slow had been triggered.

There's still enough time!

Qiu Fei measured the distance between Demon Fighter and Soft Mist. He felt like even with the slow, there was still enough time to attack Soft Mist while she was still in hitstun. He immediately attacked, but his spear moved slower than he had expected. His attack unexpectedly missed.

Not good!

Qiu Fei suddenly realized that he had made an error in judgement. Then, he saw Soft Mist turn her body and send over her spear. Like a sharp sword, the spear swung down onto Qiu Fei's Demon Fighter, nailing him to the ground. Battle Mage skill: Furious Dragon Strikes the Heart.

This attack had little startup lag and little ending lag. When the skill was completed, Soft Mist was still in the air! Ye Xiu's voice floated down: "Did you miscount my combo count?"

Yes!

Qiu Fei had realized it too. This was his mistake. He had miscounted Soft Mist's combo count.

For a Battle Mage, the benefits of a high combo count wasn't just from Battle Spirit. The damage and effects of a chaser could also be strengthened through a higher combo count. The higher the combo count, the stronger a chaser. The passive buff from a chaser was fixed though. Only a higher skill level would change it. Without knowing the Battle Mage's combo count, the power of the chaser could not be determined accurately. Qiu Fei had just committed this mistake.

When Soft Mist landed on the ground, Demon Fighter had just gotten up. He immediately charged towards Soft Mist and the two Battle Mages began clashing again.

The spectators watched in awe. It currently looked like Demon Fighter was slightly on the disadvantage, but he wasn't getting crushed. At every crucial moment, Demon Fighter seemed to be able to counterattack.

At Club Excellent Era's studio, Li Rui and the other trainees were stunned.

Finally, one of them turned their heads to look at Li Rui. His expression was doubtful and puzzled. He asked, unsure: "Brother Li, isn't this... a coaching match?"

Chapter 797: Coaching Match

A coaching match was a match focused on teaching. This type of match wasn't about victory. The coach would purposefully leave openings during the match, prompting the other to make a decision. The coach obviously had to be an amazing player, but the trainee also had to have some degree of skill. If a

coaching match was fought with an amateur or someone who simply played for fun, they wouldn't be able to understand the prompts.

Out of the people who knew Glory, those from the training camps of pro teams were most familiar with coaching matches. Occasionally, they would have the opportunity to practice against pro players, and these face-offs would usually be in the form of coaching matches. As for normal players, even if they were skilled enough to participate in a coaching match, they wouldn't get the chance.

As this match between Soft Mist and Qiu Fei went on, the onlookers had that sort of feeling. This was clearly a coaching match. The pauses to give openings were rather obvious. This sort of tempo wouldn't be found in a usual match, only in a coaching match. The first one to voice this, directed his suspicions to Li Rui, the most skilled among them.

Meanwhile, Li Rui was dumbstruck, because he had similar suspicions, but at the same time, he could hardly believe it, so he didn't say anything. But when they saw the uncertainty on his face and the same expression reflected on one another, they knew that their conclusions were similar.

To be able to fight a coaching match with Qiu Fei, wasn't this opponent a bit too terrifying?

Though everyone could guess that Ye Qiu was probably the one fighting, they never realized that Ye Qiu's strength was so overwhelming.

The Ye Qiu from half a year ago could fight a coaching match with Qiu Fei, and half a year later he still retained the ability to do so...

No one knew more about the diligence Qiu Fei had shown this half year than the members of the training camp. They could envy him, they could be jealous of him, but none of them could ignore the efforts he had made.

Qiu Fei was already very good, and after half a year of nonstop training, he would only be better.

Yet, he could still be pulled into a coaching match.

Was this coaching match not a blow to his pride?

Never mind Qiu Fei who was in the arena, even those on the sidelines felt a bit discouraged. Had half a year of effort not made any difference in the chasm between their skill? These Gods, just how much better were they?

After careful consideration, they each still ended up worrying for themselves.

They suddenly realized, the Gods they met within their clubs were far more imposing than they had thought. Yet in the Alliance, those on par with the Gods weren't uncommon.

What was a God? Today, these children truly began to understand through the presence of the obvious disparity in skill displayed in front of them. In the arena, the match raged on.

But after having suspicions of the true face of this match, the training camp members could gradually confirm that this really was a coaching match.

But that didn't mean Qiu Fei knew.

This was something that those who often participated in coaching matches understood. When you knew about the intentions behind it, it would become obvious, but to the participant involved, it may not be so clear.

This victory was one they no longer had hope for.

If the person who dared to pull you into fighting a coaching match played seriously, you had no chance of winning. And for Ye Qiu, he didn't seem to care about victory either. Rather than prompting good decisions, the coaching match exposed all kinds of flaws and problems Qiu Fei had.

Under Ye Qiu's guidance, Qiu Fei's technique was full of holes.

But who here hadn't fought Qiu Fei before? If it wasn't for this match, none of them would believe Qiu Fei could end up like this.

This battle had gone on for quite a while, the two characters seemed to be continuously fighting for the upper hand, and the audience kept cheering for Demon Fighter.

However, everyone in the Excellent Era workroom had long since gone quiet. They knew that the entire situation was under Ye Qiu's complete control. The only reason the battle had dragged on was because Ye Qiu was fighting a coaching match, not seriously trying to win. Many of the openings that Qiu Fei revealed were intentionally ignored.

They couldn't help but look towards Qiu Fei. He wasn't still oblivious, was he?

And what they saw on Qiu Fei's face was intense focus, teeth gritted, he seemed to be giving it his all to win. ... He had no idea!

That was something everyone realized immediately.

Despite his efforts, the first one to fall was still Qiu Fei's Demon Fighter.

A deafening thud drew everyone's attention. Qiu Fei had slammed his fist against the table. His displeasure with the result was clear as day.

Qiu Fei was, indeed, displeased.

Just a little more!

That's what he thought.

Yet, at that moment he heard the other speak up. "Save the video and have a good look over it later!"

Just as Qiu Fei wanted to demand an explanation, Soft Mist left the arena.

Qiu Fei, feeling a bit lost, glanced around around himself only to see everyone staring at him with shock. Qiu Fei knew he had lost his cool. No one had seen him behave so uncharacteristically before.

But his desire for victory was strong. He had wanted to use a match of Glory to teach the other a lesson. Unfortunately, he had failed.

"You okay, Qiu Fei?" Someone asked.

Qiu Fei shook his head, he was still going over the last words Ye Qiu had given him.

Demon Fighter was still lying prone in the arena. Qiu Fei saved the match, and then withdrew from the it.

Happy also finally switched players with Steamed Bun Invasion standing ready.

As soon as Qiu Fei saw that it wasn't Soft Mist, he exited the arena. Chen Yehui started ordering another to take his place, but Qiu Fei's attention was elsewhere. He opened the recording at once.

Not long after, he was dumbstruck.

Coaching matches were clear the audience, but not to the one playing in the match.

During the match, Qiu Fei gave it his all and fought to win, but eventually lost in the end.

He really had thought so.

But looking at the recording now, he knew that wasn't what happened.

This was a coaching match, a patient and meticulous coaching match. Even when Ye Qiu was still at Excellent Era, the coaching matches they had fought had never been so thorough.

A full 23 minutes!

To fight one on one for 23 minutes was probably harder than ending it in two minutes.

The execution of such a patient coaching match was performed despite the fact that Qiu Fei had no idea, and gave it his all, trying to win over his opponent.

Seeing the two figures on the screen exchange blow after blow, Qiu Fei was completely stunned.

His flaws, his problems, the things he needed to work on, after Ye Qiu's departure, how long had it been since these were pointed out to him?

But in just this one match, they were revealed to him scene by scene.

What painstaking care was put into these 23 minutes?

If Ye Qiu had wanted to win, it would've taken only 2 minutes.

If he wanted to fight a coaching match just to mock him, he didn't need to put in so much effort to unveil all of Qiu Fei's flaws.

If it was someone who had abandoned their team, someone who had used retirement to escape responsibility, would he really put so much care into guiding their juniors?

Qiu Fei couldn't continue watching the recording anymore. He suddenly stood up.

Everyone looked over in surprise, but Qiu Fei didn't speak to anyone, swiftly walking out the room.

"Where are you going, Qiu Fei?" By the time Chen Yehui had asked his question, Qiu Fei had already left.

On the computer he had been using, the screen was still frozen on the images of the recording.

"That guy, after realizing it was a coaching match, I bet he couldn't take it." Someone guessed.

After leaving the workroom, it didn't take Qiu Fei long to walk out of the club and head directly towards Happy a little ways down on the other side of the road.

He had to know.

Before, he hadn't looked for answers because he thought there was no need. His faith in the God he respected was immovable, and he believed he could do no wrong. That's why all the accusations, all the rumors, even from within the club, failed to convince him. To him, none of it was real.

As for Ye Qiu never coming out to explain anything, he didn't think it was strange. From what he knew of captain Ye Qiu, he only cared about Glory and victory. As for this other nonsense, say what you want, you think the captain cares?

Yes, he never cared.

Our captain was always like that! When he thought of his, Qiu Fei had felt proud.

Which was why when the club officially confirmed some of those rumors, Qiu Fei seethed. Then when the media exposed that Lord Grim wasn't Ye Qiu, and after, he found that Ye Qiu was using Happy's accounts to stand opposing them in the arena, Qiu Fei's conflicting emotions were something no one would be able to understand.

Yet now, he had seen the coaching match Ye Qiu fought with him, with that same patience, that same care. He was so thorough, too, using over 20 minutes. For him, it was like being told that this was the last time, everything that could be taught was given to him in this match, because it was possible that there might not be another chance.

Qiu Fei couldn't sit still anymore, he had to confirm it for himself; he had to know the truth.

Happy Internet Cafe's free internet usage promotion was still going on, and the place was still crowded with people, but those who came to talk trash even while taking advantage of the free internet were no more.

Team Happy's skill had been revealed, sarcasm and mockery needed some basis of truth, but this basis the players thought they had were being shattered over and over again by Happy.

Today was a little different.

The undefeatable Soft Mist from Happy finally met her match today.

It was unfortunate that most of the faceslappers had long since left. Having to eat your words every time you tried to mock someone wasn't appealing, so none of them dared come back, even with the free internet.

Qiu Fei charged into the Internet cafe, but there were people everywhere.

Ye Qiu... where on earth should he go to find him?

Chapter 798: Defeat After Defeat

For the others of Excellent Era, Qiu Fei's sudden departure left them confused. They exchanged puzzled glances, but none of them really cared much. All those from the training camp were rivals, so Qiu Fei leaving would only make them happier.

On the other hand, Chen Yehui was a bit worried. That guy was much more skilled than the other training camp members. He had taken notice of the few times Qiu Fei let his expressions slip through. Coming from the training camp, he could definitely tell that it was a training match, and that the opponent had to be Ye Qiu.

And Qiu Fei's strange mood started from when Ye Qiu stepped into the arena.

Perhaps the others hadn't heard, or just didn't care, but Chen Yehui noticed: upon stepping into the arena, Ye Qiu had started talking to Qiu Fei.

"I am grateful for your guidance."

Chen Yehui could clearly hear the coldness of that tone. Considering Qiu Fei and Ye Qiu's relationship, just the tone used was a big hint that something was wrong. Maybe, Qiu Fei had fallen out with Ye Qiu. It wasn't hard to guess why either. How could there be a shortage of people who were disgruntled with Ye Qiu, what with his recent actions?

Qiu Fei hated Ye Qiu.

When Chen Yehui came to this conclusion, he immediately felt a connection with Qiu Fei. He even wanted to talk trash about Ye Qiu with Qiu Fei.

On the battlefield, the newly arrived Steam Bun Invasion won a match. The training camp member who had been smashed out of the match by a brick was flushed in bewilderment.

The person's name was Bai Shengxian, people usually called him Little Bai. After a few exchanges with Steamed Bun Invasion, he thought that this guy was the real noob, turning to smile at his companions: "Watch me crush this noob."

That's right. He had thought that this opponent was very much an amateur. How could he be skilled with such simple approaches? He was just fast and technical. For a pro-player, this kind of player was nothing but a noob. Bai Shengxian had confidence that he could deal with him swiftly.

He had set himself up, only to find that reality wasn't so.

Steamed Bun Invasion fought without much thought or depth in a terribly childish way.

But... shouldn't there be a limit to how childish, how lacking in thought and depth you could be? He had never seen anyone who was so lacking in thought, so lacking in depth, so utterly childish!

Bai Shengxian's scorn towards his opponent exceeded his own expectations over and over again. That chaotic fighting style wasn't a style he had witness before in any brawler. Players who were wild and unrefined in style weren't uncommon, but never before had he seen such a crazy style. What on earth was this mess?

Eventually, Bai Shengxian's character fell to a brick.

His disbelief and anger made him want to yell at this player, "That's not how you play Glory!"

That's right. That was what Bai Shengxian believed. Of everything he knew about in Glory, there was no such style as the one that had been displayed before him. What nonsense was this?

And yet it was just this messy play style that defeated him. He didn't want to believe it! That must be beginner's luck. He hadn't been prepared at all for someone so reckless. Did he really think he could win more than once with such a style?

The match that was foretold to be played according to the regular tournament rules never happened, so Bai Shengxian ignored the rules too, angrily stepping back into the arena. He wanted revenge, he wanted to wash away this humiliation, and he wanted to tell this opponent: that's not how you play Glory. It's not that simple.

Yes, Glory wasn't so simple.

And when Bai Shengxian's character fell once more, the one who realized this was himself.

He thought he had seen through this opponent, thought that he could easily turn the tides, yet in end he was still the one who fell.

His opponent was as messy and reckless as ever, so much so that it made his intentions completely incomprehensible. Sometimes he would fight with a steady tempo, sometimes he would make amateurish mistakes, and sometimes he would achieve incredibly smart plays. How are you meant to fight such an opponent? Your experience was useless; your predictions were never right. Though it was a one on one fight, Bai Shengxian felt as if he were in a free for all, and suddenly, bang bang, he was hit!

Bai Shengxian still wanted to make a comeback, but he was afraid. He was afraid that not only would he fail in ridding himself of this humiliation, he would then further humiliate himself.

As for the others, they were also carefully studying Steamed Bun Invasion. None of them dared to take him lightly. Not even Li Rui. This guy was utterly strange, completely beyond the comprehension of experts of Glory like them.

They all stared at one another helplessly, not daring to step forwards to fight.

Then came the awkwardness from ignoring the rules.

If everyone had just played by the rules they set in the beginning, wouldn't Steamed Bun Invasion have just left of his own accord? Yet since no one cared about the rules, he still stayed in the arena despite winning. What were they to do now? It's not like they could go up and say, we're too afraid to fight you, please switch out.

If they said that, then even winning the next match wouldn't win back their face.

Asking them to obey the standard tournament rules would be even worse. After all, they were the ones who violated them first!

Having thought of this, Chen Yehui glared at Li Rui in irritation.

The good thing was that they didn't make any promises about this. If they won, then they would've been happy about getting one over Team Happy, if they lost then they can just retreat quietly. It's not like this was their first time getting tormented by Ye Qiu. They could take this humiliation.

"What's wrong? Does no one dare to try anymore?" At times like this, Chen Yehui had to try and prod them a little. He could tell that they had been startled by Steamed Bun Invasion's incomprehensible style, and without any firm understanding of how to deal with it, none of them wanted to try.

Yet, you couldn't just give up a match because you had no idea of how to counter your opponent.

Just thinking of it made Chen Yehui furious. If it wasn't for the fact that it wasn't appropriate for someone of his standing, he would definitely berate these guys. At such a time, he wished Qiu Fei were here. If it was Qiu Fei, he wouldn't cower no matter what his opponent's identity was. With these guys, they would probably surrender the moment Ye Qiu came out.

Chen Yehui's provocation worked. As soon as the words left his mouth, they all saw it for what it was, but were still unable to remain unaffected out of shame. Li Rui, who was most prone to overconfidence, stood forward.

"Give me another account. I'll do it," Li Rui said.

Fuck, you can't even win. All you do is switch accounts! How many Battle Mages do you think I have? Chen Yehui criticized in his head, but only allowed the latter half to be spoken. "There aren't that many accounts, so don't waste them!"

There was no lack of mockery in his words, and Li Rui noticed, but had no way of retorting. He was only in the training camp after all, so it wasn't unexpected that the guild leader wouldn't think much of him. On the other hand, Li Rui didn't want to get on this person's bad side. The guild leader had no say over members of the training camp, but it wouldn't be hard for him to soil Li Rui's reputation. He was a senior member of the club, after all.

Li Rui quietly accepted Chen Yehui's remark and returned to the arena after taking another Battle Mage account.

Li Rui's abilities were above that of the others present. As for Steamed Bun, his chaotic style didn't make him invincible. After a messy brawl, Li Rui finally managed to deal with Steamed Bun. Li Rui felt no shortage of relief upon winning. Though he won, it wasn't easy. It would be hard to say how another match would go.

Yet Steamed Bun Invasion didn't seem to have any plans on letting Li Rui out of a rematch, he stayed standing in the arena despite his loss.

Li Rui knew that without rules this just wouldn't work. Even if people lost they would just fight again. Among all the repeated defeats and victories, he would have a hard time standing out and their goal of humiliating the other side would never be achieved!

But how should he do this? If he says the loser should be swapped out, wouldn't he also get forced from the arena? He stayed despite his loss, too!

Just as Li Rui was trying to figure out how to go about this, he suddenly realized something! He had already switched accounts, he wasn't a loser who refused to come down, he had a new account now. What was there to be afraid of?

As soon as he thought it through, Li Rui sent a message: "If we keep going like this, it'll be endless! Why don't we have the loser switch out?"

At this moment, Li Rui had a plan in mind. This was an individual competition. Compared to the group arena, one versus many was much easier to achieve. Unlike now, the winner's health wouldn't be replenished in the group arena. He should take this chance with this mismatch of individual and group arena rules to defeat more opponents. That way he would definitely stand out!

Seeing Steamed Bun Invasion step down, Li Rui was overjoyed! Soft Mist and Steamed Bun Invasion were rather strong, and victory against them wasn't certain, but now they've both switched out. Who else does Team Happy have? Are there any other experts? Ye Qiu wouldn't come up would he?

Just as Li Rui was beginning to feel uneasy, someone stepped into the arena. Windward Formation, a Warlock.

Windward Formation hadn't fought many matches. He wasn't as well known as Soft Mist, and he wasn't a Battle Mage. Li Rui was relieved. The match started and very soon, Li Rui wanted to cry.

Defeat!

He lost again!

Just a little more! He was so close to winning, but his luck today had simply been abysmal.

Li Rui didn't want to lose this chance, he hardened his heart and sought Chen Yehui out once more. "Give me another account..."

The fourth time...

Li Rui had swapped accounts four times now. Never mind Chen Yehui, even the training camp members were feeling a little ashamed on his behalf.

Yet Chen Yehui didn't refuse him, giving him another account. In the end, he lost by just a bit once more.

"F*ck!" Li Rui was furious, looking back at Chen Yehui. This time Chen Yehui decided to be nice and just tossed him another card.

Once more, he entered the arena. Once more, he lost by just a bit.

Li Rui stared dumbly at his screen. Losing thrice in a row by just a bit. It doesn't seem possible to say it's simply bad luck! It's not like he could have the same sort of luck every time.

"This person's a little strange. Let me test him out with another account." Li Rui finally had a proper excuse.

By the sixth Battle Mage account, Li Rui had already started to pay close attention. This time he lost again, and again, it was just by a small margin, and now he understood why. This tiny margin meant that

if he just put in a bit more effort, if he was just a little luckier he could overcome it. His opponent was intentionally manipulating him, toying with him, mocking him.

This tiny margin was a very much despicable one!

Bang!

Li Rui got up and stormed out. Angry and humiliated, he couldn't stay any longer.

Chapter 799: Nonsense

Li Rui also ran away.

Chen Yehui brought six gamers from the training camp with him, and two ran away. They didn't have enough for a five-man team battle.

But was there a need to fight any longer?

Chen Yehui didn't think so. Those six were outstanding among the training camp in Excellent Era. If they needed six players from the training camp to form a team to represent Excellent Era, he believed that only those six qualified.

And these six failed to get the upper hand on Team Happy.

No, that statement would be too immodest. What upper hand? They were clearly on the losing side. Qiu Fei's performance was relatively steady and managed to defeat Tang Rou, who was in the spotlight. However, he immediately alarmed Ye Qiu, whose position would unlikely be touched by them.

But apart from that?

Li Rui had a strong sense of self-importance and believed he was outstanding. But he made a joke out of himself by switching six accounts. After being tormented back and forth, he only managed to win against Steamed Bun Invasion once, before he was toyed with by a Warlock called Windward Formation.

As for the other four, only Bai Shengxian managed to have a go, but he also made a fool of himself. He said he would bully the noob, but he ended up being oppressed by the so-called 'noob' twice. He lost to the point that he didn't dare to try again.

The three's performance was enough to show their level of skill against Happy. Chen Yehui no longer felt the need for the other three to have a go. The more they tried, the more they would lose. Even if they happened to win once in awhile, the difference between their wins and losses weren't enough to embarrass Team Happy!

If they couldn't faceslap, what was the point?

Chen Yehui didn't stop Li Rui from leaving, while the remaining four looked at one another in dismay. They looked at Windward Formation, who was still standing at the arena field. This was a plot Li Rui had set up in order to be in the limelight, but now they had fallen into it. Windward Formation was clearly more skilled than Soft Mist and Steamed Bun Invasion. If Li Rui was toyed around with, then they

wouldn't fare any better. Why would they line up to be tormented? Everyone came here to faceslap, if they couldn't, why would they turn their cheeks to be slapped?

The four didn't utter a word, neither did Chen Yehui. Windward Formation even started asking for the next person to come up. Then, the door was pushed open and Qiu Fei returned.

Qiu Fei's didn't hide the disappointment from his face.

He ran to Happy Internet Cafe, and looked around several times. He thoroughly checked every customer before each computer, but he still couldn't find the person he was looking for.

Of course he couldn't find them.

Ye Xiu's group moved to the rented apartment much earlier on, and Chen Guo was also with them. As for Happy Internet Cafe, after it overcame the obstacles and won their way through all the challenges, the faceslapping group stopped showing up. The customers present in Happy Internet Cafe were those who came for the free internet. Happy no longer had to keep the promise of staying free until the season. Since it was peaceful, Chen Guo didn't need to supervise it. She could now have fun and hang around with the other group.

Qiu Fei couldn't find Ye Qiu, so he returned disappointed. Qiu Fei didn't have his contact info. It used to be effortless to find Ye Qiu in the club, how could he have known such a day would come?

There would be an opportunity somehow.

Qiu Fei didn't greet anyone when he returned, but only quietly returned to his seat. No one touched his computer, so the screen was fixed on the scene when he last fought with Soft Mist. His Demon Fighter was on the floor, while Soft Mist stood on his side. Although she was a female character different from One Autumn Leaf, the character still looked majestic. She was just like the silhouette he always admired.

Every character carried the player's spirit within them! Using this to distinguish the player was more accurate than looking at one's habits!

Qiu Fei suddenly remembered how Ye Qiu used to tell him this. It sounded incredible, but he didn't really believe it. He was now witnessing it for himself. Even though it was a different character and she stood there without moving, Qiu Fei felt that this was Ye Qiu, the Battle God and One Autumn Leaf.

He was always there. He had never left. He had never changed.

He only cared about winning or losing in Glory; To Qiu Fei, he was always the instructor who gave his all. Even if it was a situation like this, Ye Qiu was still the same, he would guide and help Qiu Fei with a coaching match.

All of Qiu Fei's doubts were erased at once. He did not need to find Ye Qiu in person to ask for the truth. Ye Qiu had already used his match to explain everything. The player's spirit could be passed on through the character!

Qiu Fei was filled with enthusiasm and a smile showed up on his face. After he looked around, he realised everyone was staring at him. He knew that everyone would be puzzled after seeing him running back and forth recklessly. But when he scanned past everyone, he failed to find Li Rui.

"Where's Li Rui?" Qiu Fei asked.

"He left." Someone answered.

"He left?" Qiu Fei was puzzled.

"Alright, let's call it a day!" Chen Yehui spoke. Even though Qiu Fei returned, there was no need to continue today's challenge. They had already lost so many matches. What was the point? They couldn't switch accounts endlessly. Li Rui have already used six Battle Mages. The spectators weren't stupid. Even if they were fans of Excellent Era and the ratio of Battle Mages were greater, it would have been too much of a coincidence to gather up so many Battle Mages for a challenge at once.

"Then we'll take our leave." Bai Shengxian could no longer continue. When he heard Chen Yehui's declaration, he got up, informed everyone, and was ready to escape. It was very embarrassing for him for viewing the opponent as a noob, but end up being tormented for two matches. He could no longer hold it in.

Even though the other three didn't fight, they didn't feel regretful at all. If they really went, they might have ended up embarrassing themselves like Li Rui and Bai Shengxian. If such an embarrassing story was spread in the club, it might affect their future! The three also informed others of their leave and left. Qiu Fei didn't have to need to stay, but he wanted to save the recording of the previous match, so he hastily typed on the computer.

Chen Yehui had already accepted Qiu Fei as a Ye Qiu hater like him, so he came over to watch Qiu Fei upload the document of the recording onto the disk. He smiled and said. "Little Qiu was not bad today."

Qiu Fei turned around and smiled back. He was not Mo Fan, Qiu Fei would respond politely to the befriending of others. This was unlike Mo Fan, who would always have an emotionless and deadpan face.

"Would you like me to get you a USB drive?" Chen Yehui made a stance that was prepared to ransack the boxes.

"No need, no need. It's almost done uploading." Qiu Fei said.

"Little Qiu was not bad." Chen Yehui nodded and repeated what he said previously. "You never forget to improve yourself!"

"I'm supposed to." Qiu Fei said.

"When you fought that match, was the opponent Ye Qiu?" Chen Yehui asked.

Qiu Fei nodded, his eyes continued to gaze at the screen's uploading progress. 36.8%.

"He was sneaking here and there, who knows what sort of trick he'll pull next time." Chen Yehui said.

Qiu Fei turned his head around. His expression changed.

Chen Yehui thought he had found a friend and continued to speak. "A match is a match, but he deliberately made it into a training match. What was the meaning of it? To insult you?"

Qiu Fei smiled with disapproval. He was about to say something, but Chen Yehui continued with his tirade. "Forming a grass-root team and pulling off all kinds of ridiculous stunts. Is he deliberately trying to irritate us? This guy must have noticed Excellent Era's drop in performance. Excellent Era current situation must have been a part of his conspiracy. As for him? He left us mid-way."

Chen Yehui continued to speak nonsense because anything malicious against Ye Qiu must be satisfying to hear for Ye Qiu haters! Chen Yehui wanted to befriend Qiu Fei because his skills were pretty good and he would become a helpful supporter of his. Even though Qiu Fei was under Sun Xiang's oppression, it didn't mean his future was in total darkness. Whatever happened. He was better than Li Rui and those other guys. Besides, he was a Ye Qiu hater, so it would be fun chatting together!

Qiu Fei looked at the screen, the uploading bar depicted 57.7%. Chen Yehui didn't see much of a reaction from Qiu Fei, so he continued to search for their resonating point and spoke badly of Ye Qiu. This was something he was good at.

"Let's talk about you! You originally had a bright future, but he just suddenly left. It forced the club to find Sun Xiang to save us from our current situation. That's why you're in such an awkward position. Does he have no sense of responsibility? To give you hope and then destroy it. Is it fun to mock your dreams?" The more Chen Yehui spoke, the more he entered the role. He even thought of his previous self, and his anger immediately got out of hand.

The screen's uploading bar continued to increase. 80.2%.

"Ye Qiu is so hypocritical. He likes to speak all sort of nonsense like Glory, winning, and teamwork, but what did he do? He dragged us all into the mud and left us like that. Why don't we hear him talking about winning or teamwork anymore? Hypocrite! Bah!" Chen Yehui spat with disdain. The uploading of the recording happened to reach 100%.

"Oh, it finished uploading. Alright, you can return. Remember to visit when you're free!" Chen Yehui said, when the uploading finished.

Qiu Fei stood up and turned around. What Chen Yehui saw was not a friendly smile, but a fist. It smashed into Chen Yehui's face.

Chen Yehui's surroundings spun and stars appeared before his eyes. He felt as if his brain was smacked out by the force of the punch. His body tipped back and stumbled. When he lost his balance, he crashed and pushed a table out of place while he fell and rolled under it. Chen Yehui didn't think that Qiu Fei had such strength. They spent their whole day hanging before the computers, so they shouldn't be well-built. But when the fist came his way, Chen Yehui was beat down under the table and lost his sense of direction. His lips felt as if it were on fire, and his front teeth seemed loose. Between the buzzing noise in his ears, he heard Qiu Fei say: "Nonsense."

Chapter 800: Not Easy to Report

After Qiu Fei finished talking, he turned around and left the game studio. Chen Yehui lay underneath the desk. He didn't recover for a long time.

What just happened?

Did I just... get punched?

It was an actual slap to the face. It wasn't some insult thrown online, but a punch to the face. Chen Yehui had trouble wrapping his head around it. This wasn't the game. Why was there still fighting? Did he somehow transcend worlds?

Chen Yehui wasn't the only stunned. There were other employees at the game studio! Everyone had seen Qiu Fei punch their senior to the ground. Everyone stared in shock. A minute passed since Qiu Fei left. It was only then did they realize: wasn't their boss still lying under the table?

He's not dead right?

Everyone hastily got up. They immediately circled around and then saw their boss get up from underneath the table with difficulty.

Someone close to him supported him up. Chen Yehui was just barely standing. He lifted his head up. The surrounding people stifled a laugh.

The legendary sausage mouth! They had finally seen it themselves with their own eyes. When the mouth swelled up after being hit, it really looked like he had two sausages hanging on his face.

Laughing at this moment wasn't appropriate though. Everyone tried their hardest to endure it. Those, who couldn't hang on, gave an excuse saying they needed to get some water or grab a stool to temporarily leave.

Chen Yehui was helped onto a stool. He refused any water poured out for him with a wave of his hands. The studio was quiet. No one said anything. They were all trusted subordinates of Chen Yehui. If not, Chen Yehui wouldn't have denounced Ye Qiu in front of them, but it was because of this very reason that Chen Yehui was punched in the face by Qiu Fei. This matter wouldn't be easy to handle.

Even if he reported him, Qiu Fei had only punched him. Although hitting someone wasn't right, from the club's perspective, it wasn't morally wrong in that situation. Chen Yehui wasn't injured or crippled. His lips had swelled to two sausages now, but it would heal after a few days.

On the other hand, he had talked all sorts of trash about Ye Qiu. From the club's perspective, this was definitely a grave error.

Even if the higher-ups like the manager and the boss had the same thoughts as Chen Yehui, none of them would voice it like Chen Yehui had.

In reality, the club wasn't afraid to offend any players. The club was afraid of offending fans. Ye Qiu had contributed greatly to Excellent Era's success. The club wanted to reduce his influence, but directly denouncing him like Chen Yehui had definitely wasn't a viable option. Even if Ye Qiu really had been a malignant tumor to the team, when the club kicked him out, they would still praise him and send him off with their blessings. The club would only cross the line if even the fans spurned him too.

Was Ye Qiu that type? Definitely not.

Even though there were many voices of condemnation towards Ye Qiu recently, that was just because of the current situation. The fans had acted on their own. Excellent Era could only reveal their knowledge

of the situation to the public. For example, Ye Qiu had formed Team Happy; Ye Qiu was Lord Grim; Ye Qiu had refused their invitation to return. All of this had been true.

The club intended on stirring up trouble, but they could only fan the flames. They revealed actions that the fans wouldn't understand and support and let the fans decide for themselves. How could they directly slander Ye Qiu and let the fans choose? If they did that, it would result in the opposite of what they desired.

Club Excellent Era's attitude towards Ye Qiu was like this both internally and externally. Chen Yehui had overstepped his bounds, slandering Ye Qiu in an attempt to win over Qiu Fei. If the club investigated the matter, the club wouldn't attach much importance to Qiu Fei's punch, but his unadorned stance towards Ye Qiu.

The higher ups could talk about their true thoughts privately amongst themselves, but if you go out and start blabbering, aren't you being too unreliable?

Chen Yehui's brain wasn't only fixed onto Glory. As someone holding an important position in the club, he had to worry about his career too. Analyzing the pros and cons of a situation was a necessary skill.

He had no way of launching an investigation into the matter because it was his provocation to begin with. He had misjudged Qiu Fei's attitude and employed such an unreliable method. There wasn't even enough time for him to cover up the incident. How could he dare to blow up the incident and report it?

He wouldn't forget that punch though. As the matter stood, he couldn't take revenge at the moment, but he could grasp at a weakness he found in the future. If not, how could the saying "settle accounts after autumn" exist?

What should he do to pass through this current obstacle?

Would Qiu Fei report him?

Yes, logically speaking, it was also entirely possible.

Qiu Fei truly respected Ye Qiu. As for the club? Even though the higher-ups hated Ye Qiu on the inside, they could only express their respect and gratitude towards him on the surface. As a result, the higher-ups might have the same thoughts as him, but someone who wantonly condemned Ye Qiu would actually be outed as a pest.

But if that happened, Chen Yehui wasn't worried.

"Little Zhao, tss....." Chen Yehui finally spoke, but it was extremely painful to open his mouth. Apart from the swelling, his lips had been cut in many areas.

"Senior..." Little Zhao was a quick-witted fellow. When he heard his name called, he immediately went over.

"Go chase after him and see where that kid ran off to." Chen Yehui said.

"Chase him and then what?" Little Zhao asked.

"See where he went and then report back to me." Chen Yehui said. It was like he was typing out his words in chat. Every time he spoke, his lips hurt.

"Okay." Little Zhao nodded his head and then ran off.

Not long afterwards, Little Zhao messaged back. Qiu Fei didn't go anywhere. He went back to the training camp and was using the computer in the practice room.

"He didn't talk to anyone?" Chen Yehui asked.

"No." Little Zhao replied.

"That's fine. Come back!" Chen Yehui let out a sigh of relief. It seems like after punching him, Qiu Fei was too lazy to bother with anything else. Teens were still too pure. How could they have as many thoughts as Chen Yehui.

"You punk. You just wait....." Chen Yehui gnashed his teeth. He never liked him and now he deeply hated him. Even so, Chen Yehui didn't dare to stir up any trouble using this incident. What he needed to consider was how should he explain his swollen lips to others?

Excellent Era had formed a team to slap Happy's face, but it resulted in Chen Yehui being punched in real life. Not only did he need to erase these results, even in the game, Excellent Era had failed. Chen Yehui would need to at least report this failure to Cui Li.

"I know. I saw it." Cui Li bluntly said. In the end, he added: "The boss saw it too."

"Ah?"

"I'm saying the way you organized it had issues! How can you allow people who lost to keep fighting and losing? We can't achieve the faceslapping result we want. If it weren't for those losses, defeating Soft Mist after that one match would have been a perfect conclusion." Cui Li said.

Chen Yehui obviously knew what he was talking about. Li Rui lost two matches in a row. Then, Qiu Fei went up and beat Soft Mist under the context that there had been a switch of players. If Soft Mist couldn't continue fighting, that victory would have been enough. Unfortunately, Soft Mist won against Qiu Fei in the next match, diluting his victory. The face slappers couldn't use this victory to back up their arguments because it could easily be countered.

"Good for you though. When you needed to follow the rules, you didn't follow them. When you shouldn't have followed the rules, you followed them." Cui Li continued.

When he shouldn't have followed the rules referred to when Li Rui beat Steamed Bun Invasion and then kept switching accounts only to be toyed around with by that Warlock, Windward Formation. All the matches had been extremely close, frustrating Li Rui to death.

Li Rui!

Chen Yehui discovered that everything had gone wrong because of Li Rui. Li Rui started the mess by losing to Soft Mist and then switching accounts, refusing to give up. Then, he squandered it again, when he beat Steamed Bun Invasion, demanding the other side to switch players. Then, he switched, switched, and switched again.

That b*stard!

Chen Yehui never had a good impression of Li Rui before either. Now he was even more furious. At this moment, Cui Li asked: "Did you arrange for those Battle Mages to keep on coming out on stage again and again?"

Chen Yehui hastily said. Excellent Era had looked unsightly there.

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"No!" Chen Yehui hastily said. Excellent Era had been toyed with. With so many Battle Mages coming out, the crowd could probably guess that it was someone switching between alternate accounts, let alone Cui Li. He and Chen Yehui had picked which trainees to use. Of the six picked, Qiu Fei and Li Rui were the only two Battle Mages.

"It was Li Rui. He kept trying to redeem himself, so he kept on trying again and again." Chen Yehui hastily explained. He didn't like Li Rui, but if he hit a person who was already down, he would be seen as using Li Rui as a scapegoat. Cui Li's impression of him might turn bad as a result.

"What a mess. Then what was that in the beginning?" Cui Li asked.

Chen Yehui told the truth. Cui Li listened and was very unsatisfied with Li Rui's conduct: "That Li Rui is too reckless."

Chen Yehui did not answer.

"Little Qiu is not bad." Cui Li said for the third time today. This time, he wasn't talking about Qiu Fei's performance on stage. If there was some special reason for his praise, then it would indicate his acknowledgement of him.

Chen Yehui heard the praise from Cui Li and was startled. He suddenly hated how he hadn't pushed the blame onto Qiu Fei instead, when he had needed to explain himself.

But when he thought about it again, so many people knew! Confusing black and white would be too arrogant.

Seeing Qiu Fei suddenly be recognized was too unpleasant. He inadvertently touched his lips. F*ck, they're bleeding again.....